

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EUR-25 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

DODE-00 NSAE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /135 W

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P 032100Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6335

INFO USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3234

1. U.S. CITIZEN OFFICIAL OF GOODYEAR ARGENTINA HAS CONSULTED EMBASSY CONCERNING QUESTION OF FURNISHING TIRES TO U.S. OWNED AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES FOR POSSIBLE USE ON CARS DESTINED FOR CUBA. SAID HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM AKRON THAT GOODYEAR TIRES MADE IN ARGENTINA FOR AUTOMOBILES TO BE SHIPPED TO CUBA WERE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM WAIVER OR LICENSE GIVEN U.S. AUTO FIRMS.

2. THERE ARE FOUR TIRE MANUFACTURERS IN ARGENTINA: GOODYEAR AND FIRESTONE WHICH ARE WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARIES OF U.S. COMPANIES; FATE WHICH OPERATES UNDER TECHNICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL TIRE; AND PIRELLI, SUBSIDIARY OF PIRELLI OF ITALY. LATTER IS VERY SMALL, AND FURNISHES TIRES PRINCIPALLY TO EUROPEAN SUBSIDIARIES. GOODYEAR AND FIRESTONE TOGETHER FURNISH VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT TIRES FOR ALL THREE U.S.-OWNED AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS.

3. WE SUSPECT THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION BY GOODYEAR OFFICIALS IN AKRON. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT NORMAL PARTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR CARS TO BE SHIPPED TO CUBA MAY HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM WAIVER/LICENSE. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, OTHER PARTS SUCH AS AXLES FURNISHED BY OTHER U.S. SUBSIDIARIES TO TERMINAL AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS WOULD PRESUMABLY ALSO BE EXCLUDED.

4. IF IT BECAME KNOWN TO GOA THAT USG WAS PROHIBITING OR INHIB-
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ITING FURNISHING PARTS AND EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER U.S. SUBSID-

IARIES TO U.S. OWNED AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS FOR USE ON CARS
FOR CUBA THERE WOULD, WITHOUT A DOUBT, BE A STRONG REACTION.
THERE WOULD BE ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH. THE BENEFITS TO U.S.-
ARGENTINE RELATIONS GAINED AT THE HIGH COST OF MAKING AN EXCEPTION
TO OUR CUBAN DENIAL POLICY WOULD BE ALMOST ENTIRELY WASTED.

5. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS COULD USE
FATE TIRES ON THOSE SPECIFIC VEHICLES DESTINED FOR CUBA, ALTHOUGH
WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER FATE MAKES FULL LINE OF TRUCK TIRES.
HOWEVER, INCREASES IN ORDERS TO FATE WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED AND
REASON WOULD QUICKLY BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL
OFFICERS OF FATE IS MINISTER OF ECONOMY GELBARD.

6. GOODYEAR IS MOST ANXIOUS TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTING GOODYEAR REPRESENTATIVE IN
WASHINGTON IN ADDITION TO INFORMING EMBASSY CONCERNING THIS
SITUATION.

DECON: 5/2/75

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, EAST WEST TRADE, POLICIES, AMITY, EQUIPMENT, TIRES, SUBSIDIARIES, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS03234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740107-0228
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740577/aaaacref.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOODYEAR ARGENTINA HAS CONSULTED EMBASSY CONCERNING FURNISHING TIRES TO US
TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, AR, US, CU, FIRESTONE COMPANY, GOODYEAR TIRE CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005